

March 19, 2004

Via First Class Mail

Ms. Antionette Erby-Jones
69 L Street, NW
Washington, DC 20001

Re: Prior Art Search for Revised Wrap-N-Roll Holder
Our Reference No. 99997-179223 CMV

Dear Ms. Erby-Jones:

We reviewed the material regarding your revised model of the Wrap-N-Roll Holder for storing holiday lights that was enclosed with your letter of January 22, 2004. Since a feature was added to the original Wrap-N-Roll Holder invention, it was necessary to both update the April 2002 prior art search and revise the search to find prior art documents with the new feature.

Accordingly, we conducted a prior art patentability search for your invention based on the revised drawing of the invention that was included with your January 22, 2004 letter.

Upon review of the search results, and based on our understanding of the invention, we believe that a combination of the Light String Storage Reel, U.S. Patent No. 5,695,148 to Christensen and U.S. Patent 5,941,388 to Spielberger would most likely render obvious the invention. In particular, Spielberger discloses pegs 54 and 58 for holding lights in place when wrapped around the H-shaped frame. We have retained copies of all the references uncovered during the search to assist us in answering any questions you may have.

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In addition to the U.S. patents and publication uncovered in the April 2004 prior art search, this search uncovered the following two U.S. patents:

<u>U.S. Patent No.</u>	<u>Inventors</u>
5,941,388	Spielberger
6,360,899	Smith et al.

U.S. Patent No. 5,695,148 to Christensen teaches a light string storage reel 10 including a center section 20, and first 22 and second 24 side sections to store a string of lights 12 (Figures 1-2).

U.S. Patent No. 5,941,388 to Spielberg is directed to a Christmas light storage system where a string of lights is wrapped around a rack 16. The rack includes pegs 54, 56, 58 and 60.

U.S. Patent No. 6,360,899 to Smith et al. discloses a cord wrap with integrally molded light holders.

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Please note that the review of the enclosed references was limited to the discussion above. We suggest that you further review the documents for their relevance to the invention.


In the interest of completeness, please note the following comments. The search was performed on the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office website using combinations of the following terms: "Christmas light", storage, reel, spool and peg. Please note that this report is based on a search of the relevant subject matter that is keyword-searchable through the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office website. That is, this search does not include U.S. patents that issued before 1976. Please note that current or later-filed relevant patent applications may eventually issue. Although an electronic search was conducted, a manual search of the patents based on possible U.S. class and sub-class classifications was not performed. Accordingly, please understand that while this search represents a survey of the relevant art, it should not be considered as all-encompassing and inclusive.

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In addition to the patentability of your revised invention, you should consider whether the claims of an existing, enforceable patent would cover the features of your invention if it were manufactured. While an invention may merit a patent over known prior art, the manufacturer of the patented invention would be liable to an existing, enforceable patent if the manufacturer develops an invention that has all of the claimed feature of the existed, enforceable patent. We note that claim 2 of the enclosed Christensen patent appears to recite features which are all present in your revised model.

If you have any questions, please let us know.

Sincerely,


Catherine M. Voorhees

Enclosures

- 3 patents